

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 50, 69, 91 and 128-131.

50. (Twice Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:
- (a) combining a protein, a phospholipid, a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture; and
 - (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized protein, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

69. (Twice Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:
- (a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid, a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture; and
 - (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized peptide, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

91. (Twice Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

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- (a) combining a protein, a phospholipid, an organic solvent, and, optionally, a buffer salt, to form a mixture; and
 - (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized protein, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt, and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

128. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

- (a) combining a protein, a phospholipid, a buffer salt and a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and
- (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized protein, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

129. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:

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- (a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid, a buffer salt and a co-solvent, said co-solvent including an aqueous solvent and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and
 - (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized peptide, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

130. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein comprising:

- (a) combining a protein, a phospholipid, a buffer salt and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and
- (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized protein;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized protein, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

131. (Amended) A method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a peptide comprising:

- (a) combining a peptide, a phospholipid, a buffer salt and an organic solvent, to form a mixture; and
- (b) spray-drying said mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized peptide;

wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized peptide, the phospholipid and the buffer salt and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent.

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REMARKS

Claims 50, 69, 91 and 128-131 have been amended. Amended Claims 50, 69 and 91 are directed to a method for producing spray-dried particles having improved stability of a protein or peptide comprising combining a protein or peptide, a phospholipid and, optionally, a buffer salt and a co-solvent or an organic solvent, and spray drying the resulting mixture to produce spray-dried particles comprising a stabilized protein or peptide wherein the particles consist essentially of the stabilized protein, or peptide, the phospholipid and, optionally, the buffer salt; and wherein the phospholipid is present in the particles in an amount of at least about 10 weight percent. In Claims 128-131 the buffer salt is required.